(c) and (d) Between April-December, 1993, 20.7 lakh tonnes of urea has been imported involving a foreign exchange outgo equivalent to Rs. 703.41 crores.

Multinational Companies Flouting Government's Price Regulations

439. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several multinational pharmaceutical companies are flouting Government't price regulations by leasing out their brand names to the manufacturers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government to identify the Multinational Drug Companies flouting the price norms; and

(c) what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Leasing of brand names by Pharmaceutical Companies is not governed under the Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1987 but through the Trade & Merchandise Mark Act of 1958. However, as per the notification No. S.O. 719(E) dated 21.7.88, Small Scale Units manufacturing Category II formulations, are exempted from seeking price approval, provided such formulations are marketed by the concerned unit/company in their own brand names or in the brand name of any other SSI unit.

The concerned State Drug Controllers are empowered to take appropriate action on any violations under the DPCO.

Scheme for revival and modernisation of Barauni Unit of HFC

440. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has forwarded any scheme to the Union Government to revive and modernise its Barauni unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) After examining various alternatives for rehabilitation of Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the company has suggested setting up of a new naphtha based ammonia plant and matching urea plant at the existing site.

(c) The management of HFC, with the approval of their Board of Directors, had referred the company, including its Barauni unit, to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special) Provisions Act, 1985. The BIFR declared HFC as a sick company on 12.11.1992. Any decision on the future of Barauni unit would depend on the outcome of the deliberations pending before the SIFR which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Prices of Medicines

441. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the prices of medicines is higher than that of all other commodities;

(b) what are the names of the medicines both controlled and deconstrolled, whose prices have gone up by more than 30 per cent from 1st July, 1992 to 30th June, 1993; and

(c) what are the reasons for such increase and what steps have been taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of formulations, under price control and outside, in various pack sizes and dosage forms are very large and it has not been found feasible to compile the information for the specific period from the voluminous data. However there were only a very few formulations under price control where the price rise was over 30%.

Failure of tariff mechanism for price reduction of medicines

442. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government introduced Tariff Mechanism to achieve the objective of price reduction in medicines and boosting indigenous production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tariff mechanism has proved to be a total failure and none of these objectives have been achieved; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Rationalisation of custom duty on bulk drugs, drug intermediates/raw materials and formulations is done from time to time to ensure easy availability of quality drugs and formulations at reasonable prices in the market and encourage the indigenous industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bringing down the prices of bulk drugs

443. PROF. I.G. SANADI:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Past one and a half year drug prices have registered over 100 per cent increases;

(b) whether it is a fact that important brands where undue increase has been taken place include Diovol forte Tabs, Quirex, Julex, Pesulin-O, Walamcin, Merckenzyme, Nolac mvoril Mephentune, Mexitil, Acitron, ASA-50, Calmpose Equlibruim, Triptomer, Dramamine, Garoin, Netnalan Tablets, Restinon, Triple Sulpha, Ampipen, Albudac, Nervitone, Anemido, Cebion, Selerouon, Asmapax Depot, Colistin, Fenox, Avil, etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that these companies took price approval or submitted form 2-As to the Ministry and if so, what action was taken;

(d) whether it is a fact that monitoring by Ministry is totally ineffective and no ground rules have been evolved; and

(e) what are the guidelines or criteria evolved for monitoring the prices of bulk drugs and formulations and what steps have been taken to bring down the prices of above medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Price increases in cases of bulk drugs and formulations are regulated through the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and violations, if any, as and when noticed are dealt with under the said provisions.